

WAR DEPARTMENT,
U.S. BUREAU OF INSULAR AFFAIRS,
WASHINGTON.

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PHILIPPINE FOREIGN TRADE IN THE CALENDAR YEAR 1915.

From commercial statistics received and compiled by the Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department, it appears that the slight depression in the Philippine import trade following the opening of the war continued to be the leading feature in the figures for the calendar year 1915. Imports amounted to \$49,312,184, and, though slightly larger than in 1914, the seemingly favorable showing was due to a shortage in the local rice crop necessitating foreign purchases. The general import trade of 1915 exclusive of rice fell nearly three million dollars below that of the previous year. Analysis of the figures, however, shows a growing readjustment to war conditions and recovery in general imports from the drop experienced during the latter part of 1914.

The condition of the export trade as a whole was very satisfactory. The total of \$53,813,004 exceeded that of 1914 by five million dollars and closely approximated to the high record established in 1912. While war prices for sugar entered to some extent into the improved situation, the recovery of the coconut and hemp plantations from the disastrous typhoon of 1912 and the resumption of more normal production of copra and hemp was the ruling factor in the favorable returns for the year.

The local rice shortage, while not so serious as that of 1912, resulted in imports the heaviest in the past decade with that exception. The average import price was the lowest since 1911, but in spite of this the foreign rice bill for the year reached \$6,724,276, or more than double that of 1914. Reports of a bumper crop harvested throughout the islands toward the end of the year point to exceptionally favorable conditions in 1916. Prices were unfavorable to increased imports of wheat flour to supplement the rice situation as in 1912, and a reduced flour trade at war prices was at a considerably increased value over the larger quantity imported in the previous year. In consequence of the Australian drought, Australian flour gave place to American and practically disappeared from the market.

Fresh beef was imported in reduced quantities and at advanced prices, and toward the end of the year the Australian product found some competition in a new trade from the China coast. The situation was offset by much larger imports of beef cattle, the Australian supply as in the case of beef being smaller and giving place to a large trade in French Indo-China cattle, in consequence of government provisions to meet the Australian shortage and advancing prices.

Imports of cotton textiles reached the largest proportions in the history of the islands and became more exclusively American than ever before, imports from the United States constituting over 85 per cent of the total of \$8,641,130. The larger quantities of American cloths not only met the larger demand, but to a considerable extent supplanted British and Japanese trade which further materially declined in 1915. The textile increase was in some measure offset by reduced purchases of cotton yarns for local manufacture, in the supply of which the United States has thus far taken no part, and which from year to year have become more conspicuously of Japanese origin.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the cotton cloth exported from the United States to the Philippine Islands for the calendar year 1915, as shown by the report of the Department of Commerce, was \$6,908,409, more than five times the amount sent to China in the same period and materially greater than that sent to any other country, being approximately 16 per cent of the entire amount of cloth exported from the United States.

If the metal trade may be taken as a measure of industrial activity and development, the extent to which this has been interrupted by the war is shown by the smallest imports of iron and steel since 1909. The total amounted to but \$4,430,072 and fell two and a half million below that of 1914, but in the reduced trade the American proportion was increased and constituted about 85 percent of the whole. Imports of steel rails declined heavily and the same was true of structural materials generally, such as structural iron and steel and corrugated roofing as well as lumber. Imports of cement were also less, a fact that is interesting in connection with the completion during the year of the first cement factory in the islands, which is destined to have important bearing on future imports.

In the export trade the leading interest centers in the recovery in copra production. Shipments increased from 85,965 long tons to 136,896, and, though the quantity fell slightly short of the maximum reached prior to the check in production following the typhoon of 1912, 1915 easily becomes the banner year of copra, if allowance is made for the recently inaugurated manufacture of coconut oil for export in which considerable quantities of copra are locally consumed. Prices continued about the low level set by the war, but the larger quantity resulted in an increase of over three million dollars, the total for the year being \$11,111,555. France continued to take the bulk of the increased production, American purchases showed slight gains, Spanish trade doubled, while irregular purchases to an unusual amount were credited to Italy and the United Kingdom during the year. Exports of coconut oil were valued at \$2,820,502 and only slightly exceeded those of 1914, but considerable purchases of oil-extracting machinery were a feature of the import trade, and with additional capacity, still further increase in this already important local manufacture of copra into coconut oil for export is to be expected.

Though exports of hemp increased from 114,543 long tons to 139,767, there was not the complete recovery in production noted in copra, exports having considerably exceeded this figure prior to the effects of the storm. Prices ranged lower with the increasing supply, but moved upward toward the end of the year, with reports of heavy storms in the hemp districts and estimates of coming shrinkage in production. The value of \$21,339,100 for the year was not far short of the maximum in the history of the trade and exceeded that of 1914 by over two million dollars. The United States took about half of the larger quantity marketed while the proportion taken by the United Kingdom was smaller than in previous years. Provisions for government grading and the establishment of standard grades were inaugurated at the beginning of the year, and, with a six months exemption for the export of hemp previously baled, became fully effective in July, from which date new and more detailed information concerning this most important export of the islands is made available.

Conditions in the sugar industry continued satisfactory both as to prices and production. The quantity exported, amounting to 297,679 long tons, fell 25,082 tons below that of 1914, but was valued at \$11,310,215, or somewhat more than the larger quantity of that year, while production estimates on the crop indicate that some twenty or thirty thousand tons were still unmarketed at the close of the year. Exports to the United States were only 81,532 tons, or less than half those of the previous year. High freight rates were to the advantage of nearby marketing, and Hongkong, China and Japan took the bulk of exports. In fact, in the last months of the year, coincident with

the closing of the Panama Canal and the highest freights, shipments to the United States entirely ceased. British purchases became a feature of some importance with the opening of the war and amounted to 19,902 tons in 1915, constituting practically all the residue not finding an American or oriental market. Imports of refined sugar continued to decline with increasing production of higher grade sugar by recently installed modern mills.

Exports of cigars continued to decline and the export quantity, 134,648,000, was the smallest since the inauguration of free trade with the United States created an American market of large but fluctuating demand. The decline of about twenty million, however, in 1915, was in the face of an American trade that slightly increased and amounted to 61,170,000. Analysis of the figures shows that a decline in foreign purchases began in the latter half of 1914 coincident with the war, and, though there has been no reduction in the large nearby oriental trade, the Australian, British, French, and Spanish demand was much reduced. The larger American purchases of 1915 yielded a smaller value than those of 1914, and the average price of American shipments was the lowest since the inauguration of this trade in 1909. The elimination of Belgium, Germany, and Austria-Hungary accounts in large measure for a reduced leaf tobacco trade, much reduced shipments to Spain being about offset by unusually large French purchases.

In the import trade for 1915 the country distribution was subject to considerable change. Imports from the United States, amounting to \$26,381,069, increased over two million dollars, and comprised 53 per cent of the total against 49 per cent in 1914. American gains were chiefly in the flour and cotton goods trade. Imports from European countries generally declined. The important German trade of other years became negligible. British figures were smaller by more than a million dollars, chiefly in cotton goods and iron and steel, while French and Spanish were also materially lower. A million dollar reduction in imports from Australia in a general way reflected the disastrous drought that country has passed through, and was made up of flour, cattle, butter, fodder, etc. The largest gain of the year was that of the French East Indies, due to the unusual demand for rice and to shipments of cattle to supplement the Australian beef and cattle shortage.

In the increased export trade the country distribution was somewhat modified by readjustments growing out of war conditions. The American total of \$23,653,211 fell \$774,499 below that of 1914, and declined from 50 per cent to 44 per cent of the total, larger values for hemp failing to offset the heavy reduction in the purchase of sugar. Important increases credited to Hongkong, Japan, and China were due to taking over the American sugar trade of the previous year. Hemp, sugar, and copra entered into the two million dollar increase in British purchases, copra and leaf tobacco contributed to the larger French total, while the million dollar trade of Germany, largely made up of copra, disappeared from the figures of 1915, as also did the smaller totals of Belgium and Austria-Hungary.

Though freights do not enter into the foreign trade figures under review, the problem of rates and tonnage was as acute during 1915 in the Philippines as elsewhere throughout the world. In the earlier months there was reported much congestion on the wharves and in the warehouses, and a dearth of vessels to handle the export trade, while a bad condition was rendered worse in the latter part of the year by the withdrawal from the Pacific of American liners that had been important factors in the carrying trade between the United States and the islands. In spite of these handicaps the year's returns show a tonnage volume of exports close to the highest in the history of the islands. Some measure, however, of the increasing cost of this outward movement to foreign markets may be gathered from the fact that though freight rates were already high at the beginning of 1915, they had trebled on all the great staples by the close of the year.

FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.
Compiled by the Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department.

I M P O R T S .		Twelve months ending December -			
		1914		1915	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Automobiles.....No.		589	\$703,866	620	\$582,256
United States....."		499	519,829	608	560,846
Other countries....."		90	184,037	12	21,409
Cement.....Bbls.		336,863	554,882	299,859	408,530
United States....."		43	119	24	77
Germany....."		83,877	157,451		
Hongkong....."		83,102	126,739	81,970	109,227
Other countries....."		169,841	270,573	217,865	299,226
Coal.....Long tons		587,696	1,749,745	470,087	1,370,395
United States....."		41,407	120,255	21,021	63,575
Australasia....."		83,865	208,365	56,217	141,647
Japan....."		305,296	1,040,117	297,790	945,064
Other countries....."		157,128	381,008	95,059	220,109
Cotton, and manufactures:					
Cloths.....Sq.yds.		76,773,383	6,302,965	116,613,514	8,641,130
United States....."		58,348,880	4,667,983	102,349,263	7,448,170
United Kingdom....."		11,480,422	1,037,618	8,074,418	691,909
Other countries....."		6,944,081	597,364	6,189,833	501,051
Thread.....			453,644		403,976
United States.....			404,074		349,855
Other countries.....			49,570		54,121
Wearing apparel.....			1,422,132		1,293,218
United States.....			879,448		401,863
Germany.....			215,079		23,072
Japan.....			565,678		761,778
Spain.....			184,258		33,150
Other countries.....			77,669		73,355
Yarn.....Lbs.		4,036,852	910,515	3,032,676	581,195
United States....."		181	39	1,457	1,905
United Kingdom....."		987,304	259,501	659,771	155,832
Japan....."		2,293,324	490,410	1,839,020	337,154
Other countries....."		756,043	160,565	532,428	86,304
All other.....			866,988		871,896
United States.....			374,789		410,049
United Kingdom.....			200,410		153,224
Other countries.....			291,789		303,623
Iron and steel:					
Machinery.....			2,538,445		1,390,566
United States.....			1,655,034		1,056,584
United Kingdom.....			398,855		232,818
Other countries.....			484,556		101,164
Corrugated roofing.....Lbs.		23,192,906	770,311	12,563,854	439,604
United States....."		20,212,762	637,676	11,961,877	419,238
Other countries....."		2,980,144	82,635	601,977	20,366
All other.....			3,674,688		2,599,902
United States.....			2,750,586		2,234,140
United Kingdom.....			307,005		171,383
Other countries.....			617,097		194,379

FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. - Continued.

I M P O R T S.	Twelve months ending December -			
	1914		1915	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Illuminating oil.....Galls.	12,817,063	\$ 1,281,020	13,072,882	\$ 1,129,015
United States....."	10,607,013	1,081,734	10,667,639	905,970
Other countries....."	2,210,050	199,286	2,405,243	223,045
Leather, and manufactures:				
Boots and shoes.....Pairs	675,331	912,770	681,182	934,949
United States....."	500,803	878,118	542,644	905,720
Other countries....."	175,028	34,652	138,538	29,229
All other.....		645,054		339,854
United States.....		554,607		281,962
Other countries.....		90,447		57,892
Meat and dairy products:				
Beef, fresh.....Lbs.	12,675,246	882,144	9,921,189	920,730
United States....."			3,133	329
Australasia....."	12,675,246	882,144	9,378,209	890,678
Other countries....."			539,847	29,723
Condensed milk.....Lbs.	9,803,043	724,062	10,550,973	730,471
United States....."	1,456,376	114,712	3,090,814	176,275
United Kingdom....."	6,148,925	466,652	5,954,743	462,597
Other countries....."	2,197,742	142,698	1,505,416	91,599
All other.....		1,378,341		1,169,877
United States.....		505,922		391,745
Australasia.....		304,071		178,479
Other countries.....		568,348		599,653
Paper, and manufactures.....		757,190		761,211
United States.....		473,405		493,743
France.....		67,975		92,328
Germany.....		29,734		6,056
Other countries.....		176,076		169,084
Rice.....Long tons	95,390	3,276,148	214,990	6,724,276
United States....."				
French E. I....."	87,507	2,949,414	204,559	6,337,431
Other countries....."	7,883	326,734	10,431	386,845
Wheat flour.....Bbls.	399,449	1,611,158	378,909	1,946,304
United States....."	265,298	1,050,273	377,975	1,941,141
Australasia....."	134,076	560,469	816	4,448
Other countries....."	75	416	118	715
Wood, and manufactures.....		771,789		336,213
United States.....		624,582		228,311
Other countries.....		147,207		107,902
All other articles.....		16,400,796		15,736,617
United States.....		7,177,210		8,109,571
Other countries.....		9,223,586		7,627,046
Total imports.....		48,588,653		49,312,184

FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS - Continued.

E X P O R T S.	Twelve months ending December -			
	1914		1915	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Copra.....Long tons	85,965	\$7,980,270	136,895	\$11,111,555
United States....."	17,894	1,606,133	20,882	1,760,046
France....."	38,755	3,485,748	62,074	4,901,808
Spain....."	9,627	978,843	20,041	1,653,904
Other countries....."	19,689	1,909,546	33,898	2,795,797
Coconut oil.....Lbs.	26,330,263	2,619,182	29,683,107	2,820,502
United States....."	26,228,071	2,607,163	29,470,943	2,804,632
Other countries....."	102,192	12,020	212,164	15,870
Hemp (Manila).....Long tons	114,548	19,194,615	139,767	21,339,100
United States....."	49,348	9,619,376	68,157	11,351,283
United Kingdom....."	48,232	6,040,714	55,719	6,736,616
Japan....."	5,859	2,075,512	6,599	2,028,995
Other countries....."	11,109	1,459,213	9,292	1,222,206
Hemp, knotted.....Lbs.	701,105	570,787	573,112	305,747
United States....."	963	950		
France....."	60,776	55,455	287,407	149,740
Italy....."	553,351	445,992	90,951	55,539
Switzerland....."	10,609	8,375	187,047	97,669
Other countries....."	75,406	60,015	7,707	2,799
Maguey.....Long tons	5,440	417,057	6,904	535,204
United States....."	523	49,313	1,381	117,943
United Kingdom....."	2,923	219,015	3,687	286,202
Other countries....."	1,994	148,729	1,836	131,059
Sugar.....Long tons	232,761	11,059,592	207,679	11,310,215
United States....."	166,851	8,241,853	81,532	5,141,580
China....."	18,434	805,598	26,693	1,313,070
Hongkong....."	28,510	1,108,602	51,017	2,493,347
Japan....."	13,604	619,705	28,509	1,450,804
Other countries....."	5,262	283,835	19,928	911,414
Cigars.....Thous.	154,753	2,315,159	134,643	2,057,303
United States....."	56,205	1,200,126	61,170	1,151,222
Australasia....."	13,690	201,312	5,323	79,554
British E. I....."	15,362	181,343	15,549	182,472
China....."	17,199	174,570	17,386	191,078
Other countries....."	52,297	557,808	35,220	452,977
Leaf tobacco.....Lbs.	28,848,165	1,757,824	24,136,034	1,527,106
United States....."	45,597	4,612	87,384	10,096
Austria-Hungary....."	392,406	41,150		
Spain....."	18,028,004	1,146,348	12,075,103	781,372
Other countries....."	10,382,158	565,714	11,972,547	735,638
All other articles.....		2,774,946		2,806,272
United States.....		1,098,184		1,316,409
Other Countries.....		1,676,762		1,489,863
Total exports.....		48,639,634		53,813,004

FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS - Continued.

C O U N T R I E S.	Imports		Exports	
	Twelve months ending December -			
	1914	1915	1914	1915
United States.....	\$24,020,395	\$26,381,069	\$24,427,710	\$23,653,211
Hawaii.....	242,250	158,046	119,415	122,772
United Kingdom.....	4,429,612	3,261,016	7,280,033	9,227,103
Australasia.....	2,425,251	1,409,613	602,650	559,171
Austria-Hungary.....	149,045	19,193	82,829	-----
Belgium.....	215,560	6,266	253,525	-----
China.....	2,669,623	2,422,697	1,108,719	1,623,284
East Indies, British.....	744,346	755,992	1,157,095	1,076,623
French.....	3,131,240	6,833,071	8,505	33,161
France.....	1,098,609	750,832	3,897,283	5,553,813
Germany.....	2,252,550	226,812	1,079,714	68
Hongkong.....	297,143	232,294	2,025,917	3,471,409
Italy.....	191,678	150,924	738,520	1,435,197
Japan.....	3,633,642	3,717,268	2,993,845	3,780,246
Netherlands.....	132,504	147,669	333,116	287,081
Spain.....	1,193,475	919,103	2,256,337	2,592,118
Switzerland.....	520,895	792,860	11,097	97,688
Other countries.....	1,240,825	1,107,454	316,325	300,059
Total.....	48,588,653	49,312,184	48,639,634	53,813,004
TOTALS.				
January.....	5,517,600	4,681,581	3,453,749	5,301,392
February.....	3,942,920	3,930,330	4,063,889	4,278,972
March.....	5,392,266	4,442,247	4,561,685	4,598,173
April.....	3,944,284	2,945,045	3,532,183	4,768,355
May.....	4,040,007	3,404,579	4,957,466	4,027,338
June.....	5,135,545	4,410,048	6,466,196	6,341,370
July.....	3,772,427	4,901,693	5,542,077	6,746,938
August.....	3,976,620	4,304,747	3,152,175	3,104,073
September.....	3,752,635	5,389,952	4,025,167	3,101,244
October.....	3,257,901	4,662,239	3,512,140	4,109,073
November.....	2,507,471	2,059,920	2,159,367	4,152,554
December.....	3,348,977	3,129,793	3,198,535	3,233,467
Total.....	48,588,653	49,312,184	48,639,634	53,813,004
UNITED STATES.				
January.....	3,071,750	2,552,721	1,448,750	1,420,929
February.....	1,747,515	2,231,505	1,570,065	1,286,690
March.....	2,725,024	2,439,443	2,234,303	1,719,430
April.....	1,885,466	1,224,394	1,823,091	2,526,739
May.....	1,996,280	1,558,263	2,680,932	1,606,311
June.....	2,819,588	2,563,283	3,647,195	3,080,371
July.....	1,626,885	2,562,984	3,270,783	3,620,292
August.....	1,882,575	2,205,802	1,706,332	1,719,506
September.....	2,035,238	3,348,999	2,360,011	1,587,600
October.....	1,492,614	2,591,519	1,949,867	1,533,635
November.....	1,179,725	1,667,229	946,776	1,522,827
December.....	1,557,735	1,374,927	979,536	1,881,381
Total.....	24,020,395	26,381,069	24,427,710	23,653,211

NOTE: U. S. Insular Possessions are not included under the title "United States".

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